women Flight Cadets, (Ms. Anshu Singh, Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl) who were admitted for training in the Air Force Academy (AFA), Hyderabad in January 2004 under the Short Service Commission for Women [SSC(W)] scheme. The three Ex-Flight Cadets failed in three or more exams during training, which exceeded the maximum number of failures permissible under the existing policy. Subsequently, the cadetship of Ms. Anshu Singh was terminated on 28.12.2004 and that of Ms. Sarabjit Jus and Ms. Preeti Bahl on 13.1.2005. The allegations of sexual harassment was first raised by Ms Sarabjit Jus on 25.1.2005 through a written complaint.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A Court of Inquiry (CoI) has been convened on 18.3.2005, which is still under progress. Action will be taken based on the findings of the Inquiry.

Throwing of passengers from running train by army personnel

†2986. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the incident therein some army personnel threw some persons out of the running train;

(b) the number of other similar incidents which have been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) the action taken against the culprits of such incidents; and

(d) the measures being taken by Government to stop the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the last two years, 3 similar incidents were reported.

(c) Out of the said cases, in two cases the accused were not found blameworthy by the Army Court of Inquiry. Regarding the third incident where the accused were found to be at fault, strict action under the military law has been ordered.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Stern action is taken against the guilty army personnel, which acts as a deterrent.

Committee for Examination of defence acquisition policy

2987. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that Government has constituted a committee to examine the current procedure and the necessary changes required in order to modify acquisition process of equipment by the armed forces;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) what are the recommendations made by the committee; and

(d) what efforts Government are making to simplify the Defence production procedure to provide a level-playing field for private players.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Part-I of the Report of the Committee has been submitted on 5.4.2005.

(c) The recommendations made by the Committee revolve around the following:

i) Preparation of a 15-year long-term plan forming the basis for acquisition programme.

ii) Information sharing of requirement of Armed Forces with the Industry.

iii) Identification of entry points for the private sector in the acquisition process.

iv) Accreditation and fostering of Raksha Udyog Ratna (RUR)/Champion.

v) Policy framework to promote participation of SMEs in defence production.

vi) New institutional architecture for defence acquisition.

vii) Defence R&D opportunities both with DRDO and industry.

viii) Promote transparency in decision-making.